GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3269
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2005
INDO- BANGLADESH TRADE
Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has given any assurance with regard the trade deficit of Bangladesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has also assured Bangladesh for increased economic interaction between the two countries by organising trade shows in India and Indian investment in Bangladesh; and

(d) if so, the extent to which both the countries have taken steps to improve the trade between the two countries ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN)

(a) & (b) : No, Sir. However to reduce the trade deficit of Bangladesh, India conveyed its sincerity to address Bangladesh concerns in this regard, including through measures such as removal of non-tariff and para tariff barriers. During the recently concluded 3rd Joint Working Group (JWG) Meeting held in Dhaka on August 1-2, 2005, many of the outstanding issues on Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs), Trade Facilitation, Revision of Bilateral Trade Agreement and feasibility of Free Trade Agreement between India and Bangladesh were taken up.

(c) & (d): India has been assisting Bangladesh in arranging trade promotional activities. For instance Bangladesh participated in India International Trade fair held in New Delhi on November 14-27, 2004 on concessional basis. Bangladeshi companies have also been encouraged to participate in trade fairs held at Kolkata, Guwahati and Agartala. Recent initiatives by India and Bangladesh to reduce non-tariff barriers and greater customs cooperation are steps leading to higher investments in each other country, which would result in improving , the bilateral trade between the two countries.